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Agenda item 39 (*b*)

Resolution adopted by the General Assembly

[*without reference to a Main Committee (A/58/L.56 and Add.1)*]

58/235. Implementation of the recommendations contained in the report of the Secretary-General on the causes of conflict and the promotion of durable peace and sustainable development in Africa

The General Assembly,

Recalling the report of the Open-ended Ad Hoc Working Group on the Causes of Conflict and the Promotion of Durable Peace and Sustainable Development in Africa,[1] and resolutions 53/92 of 7 December 1998, 54/234 of 22 December 1999, 55/217 of 21 December 2000, 55/281 of 1 August 2001, 56/37 of 4 December 2001, 57/296 of 20 December 2002 and 57/337 of 3 July 2003,

Recalling also, in this context, Security Council resolutions 1325 (2000) of 31 October 2000 on women and peace and security, and 1366 (2001) of 30 August 2001 on the prevention of armed conflicts,

Having considered the updated matrix for 2002 contained in the report of the Secretary-General[2] on the implementation of the recommendations contained in the report of the Secretary-General on the causes of conflict and the promotion of durable peace and sustainable development in Africa,[3]

Recalling its resolution 57/7 of 4 November 2002 on the final review and appraisal of the United Nations New Agenda for the Development of Africa in the 1990s and support for the New Partnership for Africa's Development,

Noting that prevention of conflict must remain the fundamental focus of the work of the United Nations and that peace, security and development, in particular within post-conflict contexts, are inextricably linked,

Noting also that conflict prevention and the consolidation of peace require coordinated, sustained and integrated efforts from the United Nations system and Member States,

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[1] *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-sixth Session, Supplement No. 45* (A/56/45).

[2] See A/58/352.

[3] A/52/871-S/1998/318.

Recalling section VII of the United Nations Millennium Declaration,[4] which highlights the special needs of Africa,

Reaffirming that the implementation of the recommendations contained in the report of the Secretary-General on the causes of conflict and the promotion of durable peace and sustainable development in Africa must remain a priority on the agenda of the United Nations system and of the Member States,

Underscoring the fact that the responsibility for peace and security in Africa, including the capacity to address the root causes of conflict and to resolve conflicts in a peaceful manner, lies primarily with African countries themselves and with regional and subregional structures,

Underscoring also the need to strengthen further the political will to ensure the required political, financial and technical support critical for the effective implementation of the recommendations in all of the areas included in the report of the Secretary-General,

Reaffirming that the General Assembly must continue to play the primary role in monitoring the implementation of the recommendations contained in the report of the Secretary-General and assessing the progress made,[5]

1. *Takes note with appreciation* of the updated matrix for 2002 contained in the report of the Secretary-General[2] on the implementation of the recommendations contained in the report of the Secretary-General on the causes of conflict and the promotion of durable peace and sustainable development in Africa,[3] and the further advances in a wide range of areas made since the last progress report;

2. *Notes with appreciation* that many strides have been made in the prevention and settlement of disputes and that there have been sustained efforts by African regional and subregional initiatives of late to mediate and resolve conflicts;

3. *Requests* Member States to ensure that such initiatives continue to be taken in close consultation and coordination with the United Nations in order to ensure that the United Nations can have a clear role, as appropriate, in the subsequent implementation of such mediated settlements;

4. *Welcomes* the efforts undertaken by African countries towards the establishment of a Peace and Security Council within the African Union, and encourages the States members of the African Union that have not yet ratified the protocol relating to the establishment of the Council to do so;

5. *Encourages* African countries to continue their efforts to develop African capacity to undertake peace support operations at the regional and subregional levels and the United Nations and donor countries to establish suitable mechanisms to assist African States in developing their capacity to undertake peace support operations in a coherent and coordinated manner;

6. *Welcomes* the European Union decision to establish a peace facility to support the establishment of the African Peace and Security Mechanism and the implementation of peace initiatives undertaken by the African Union;

7. *Also welcomes* the establishment of the Ad Hoc Working Group on Conflict Prevention and Resolution in Africa of the Security Council and of the Ad

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[4] See resolution 55/2.

[5] See *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-sixth Session, Supplement No. 45* (A/56/45), para. 67.

Hoc Advisory Group on African Countries Emerging from Conflict, within the framework of the Economic and Social Council;

8. *Notes with concern* that progress in the implementation of the recommendations in the report of the Secretary-General remains slow and uneven;

9. *Notes* that conflict prevention and peace consolidation efforts, in particular efforts to eradicate poverty, promote respect for human rights, strengthen rule-of-law institutions, re-establish transparent and accountable public administration, encourage democratic reform and demobilize, disarm and reintegrate ex-combatants should be supported by Member States and the United Nations system through enhanced coordination, coherence and sustained financial and political support;

10. *Decides* to continue to monitor the implementation of the recommendations contained in the report of the Secretary-General on the causes of conflict and the promotion of durable peace and sustainable development in Africa;[3]

11. *Welcomes* the designation of the Office of the Special Adviser on Africa as a focal point within the Secretariat which should continue to monitor, through the already established interdepartmental task force on Africa affairs, the implementation of the recommendations contained in the report of the Secretary-General on the causes of conflict and the promotion of durable peace and sustainable development in Africa, with special regard being given to preventive action and post-conflict peace consolidation, and make recommendations as to how the implementation of those recommendations could be further enhanced;

12. *Calls upon* Member States to provide financial and technical assistance in a coordinated and sustained way in order to support activities to eradicate poverty, promote respect for human rights, strengthen rule of law institutions and promote transparent and accountable public administration;

13. *Encourages* the Secretary-General to explore and recommend suitable arrangements and mechanisms through which Member States could more effectively address the multidisciplinary causes of conflict, including their regional dimensions, and strengthen the coordinated and sustained manner in which they could provide financial and technical assistance in preventive action as well as post-conflict peace-building;

14. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its fifty-ninth session a report on the implementation of the present resolution, taking into account recent developments related to the cooperation of Africa with the international community on these matters.

78th plenary meeting
23 December 2003